

COAL MINE DISASTER OUT WEST.

Terrific Explosion of Fire Damp—Thirteen Men Instantly Torn to Pieces. One of the most serious and horrifying fire-damp explosions in the history of Rocky Mountain coal mining...

Occurring when it did at night, when only a light force of miners were at work, the death toll was limited to thirteen souls, but had it taken place during the day the loss of life must have run into hundreds...

PERSONAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Evangelist Moody loves horses and drives in a pell-mell style. When Chauncey Dewey was counsel for the Vanderbilt railroads he got \$36,000 a year. Louisa Kosuth is in failing health...

SUDDEN DEATH OF MISS BAYARD.

The Eldest Daughter of Secretary Bayard Suddenly Expires from Disease of the Heart. Washington dispatch of the 16th: Miss Kate Bayard, eldest daughter of the secretary of state...

Miss Bayard had accepted an invitation to assist Miss Cleveland at her reception this afternoon, and that lady and her guests, Miss Utley and Miss Loue, who were also to assist at the reception...

COWBOYS THRASHED BY MEXICANS.

A dispatch from Eagle Pass says: A fight took place yesterday fifteen miles above here between twenty Mexican custom guards and ten Texan herders. The Mexicans had seized a couple of hundred head of cattle...

THE MARKETS.

Table with market prices for various commodities like wheat, barley, corn, and other goods in Omaha, New York, and Chicago.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS AND NOTES.

A Record of Proceedings in Both Branches of the U. S. Congress.

SENATE.—Voorhees presented memorials from citizens of Montana praying that the territory may be admitted as a state into the union...

HOUSE.—In the house bills were introduced: By Toole, of Montana—For the admission of Montana as a state.

SENATE.—Hawley, from the committee on military affairs, reported a joint resolution appointing Gen. John F. Hartranft, of Pennsylvania, as one of the managers of the National Soldiers' home in place of Gen. McClellan, deceased.

HOUSE.—Bragg reported a bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter. Placed on the house calendar. It authorizes the president to appoint Fitz John Porter to a position of colonel in the army...

NEWSITEMS BY THE CABLE.

Greece and Servia are negotiating for an alliance against Bulgaria. Count Rascon has been appointed Spanish minister to London in place of Marquis De Casa Laislas, who has been transferred to Washington.

The king of Bavaria has forbidden the cabinet to interfere with his exchequer. The members will resign. The king's debts amount to 15,000,000 marks.

President Grevy has signed a decree granting amnesty to persons convicted of political offences since 1870, and reducing the sentences of many offenders against common law.

The London Daily Telegraph says the government will introduce a bill abolishing the vicerey of Ireland. It is known that it is this fact that induces the Earl Carnarvon to resign the lord lieutenantcy.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have become reconciled; that Earl Spencer, Granville, and the Marquis of Hartington have given assent to a course of tactics suggested by Mr. Gladstone...

The Emperor William opened the Prussian diet. In his speech his majesty said: "I am grateful for the care and fidelity of my people, and for the benevolent sympathy which has been extended to me by foreign countries."

James Kelly, of Potsdam, N. Y., while intoxicated, wandered into a Masonic lodge-room at Prescott, Ont., the other evening, and fell asleep. He was locked up when discovered, and made to pay an initiation fee of \$11.

AFRICA'S GOLDEN SANDS.

A California Miner's Experience in the Land of the Boers—The Famous Diamond Fields.

A gentleman identified with mines and mining on this coast for the past twenty-five years, has just arrived in this city, says The San Francisco Alta, from a two years' trip through South Africa, exploring and prospecting that country in search of some of the rich mines that have been reported to exist there.

The stay was long enough to enable those who desired to visit Longwood, the last home of Napoleon, and the tomb which held his remains for twenty years. The traveler gave a very interesting account of this historic spot, showing that the place is still cared for and preserved.

Longwood, said the gentleman, "hardly bears the marks of its age and it looks as fresh as if but recently built. Leaving the island we proceeded directly south to Cape Town, a distance of 1,200 miles, where we arrived in a few days. Cape Town is a place of 35,000 inhabitants, the Dutch or boers predominating there, including the new parliament building constructed this year by the English government.

After remaining in Cape Town a few days I took a steamer and went up the east coast of the continent to Mossel Bay, a town of one thousand inhabitants. The coast here is similar to that of Lower California, and is rather barren, bleak and unproductive.

From Lydenburg to Pilgrim's Rest is a distance of fifty miles, and at this point are located the far-famed African gold-mines, and here gold was first discovered. The mines extend from Pilgrim's Rest to Mac Mac, distant eight miles, and to Spitzkop, a few miles further.

The Dekap mines, from which has been shipped during the same period \$500,000. The Dekap mines are quartz, and consist of an oxidized deposit from twenty to forty feet in width, developed by cross-cuts and shafts for a distance of five hundred feet in length and to a depth of fifty feet, and will mill an ounce and a half to the ton.

Archbishop Walsh, in an address at Dublin, said Parnell hoped to obtain a settlement of the Irish question from Gladstone. The speaker trusted the hope would be realized and that sad results would not be witnessed by desperate men, despairing of securing freedom by constitutional means having recourse to dynamite and the dagger of the assassin.

Traveling mesmerists are said to be accompanied by "subjects" who have been trained to resist the ordinary tests of burning and pricking, and can thus simulate the hypnotic sleep. They are known to the professional mesmerist as "horses."

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ROOM.

One of the Best Appointed and Furnished Rooms in the Capitol.

Frobly the best appointed and furnished room in the capitol is that occupied by the president of the senate, and known as "the vice president's room." It adjoins the celebrated marble room, in which visitors to senators are received, and is intended as the private office and retiring room of the vice president.

The living is extremely high through the Cape Colony, and is altogether an undesirable place to emigrate to, unless one has an abundance of means. As for myself, I am heartily glad to get back to California.

Reading Character Leg-itimately.

An eminent literary light and a shrewd observer of humanity once remarked in my hearing, that he could immediately tell the character of any female whose stockings he might see. I have been, since then, wonderfully amazed at the justice of this man's assertion.

As a newspaper man I ought not to say much against the bas bleu. The blues have very little beauty as a rule, but they make up for it in their wit. If you have a good level head and are not slow in repartee, you may go with impunity with the blues.

Just wait until you see "Nanon!" At present you are supposed to know nothing of the ballet or chorus girls. About black or brown stockings I have little to say. Their wearers are good and modest, pure and refined women.

A white-stockinged woman is either an old maid or one who careth not for the esteem of men. She who wears white stockings has no poetry in her soul. For her the soaring flood of music from a quivering bird is as the chattering of a crow; the glorious hues of a crowded garden, inferior to the beauties of a gaudy bit of calico.

An Appreciative Audience. "What did you think of my playing?" asked an amateur piano performer of Judge Pennybunker, who is a musical critic. "Splendid, perfectly lovely. There is a magic spell about your music that is simply indescribable."

"Do you really think so?" "Why, it is so grand, so perfectly magnificent, that you deserve an audience composed entirely of musicians like Beethoven."

"That's the highest compliment a musician can receive." "Yes, but you deserve every bit of it. Yes, sir, an audience composed of musicians like Beethoven would appreciate your piano recitals."

After the performer had gone away a gentleman asked Pennybunker what he meant by such extravagant praise of such poor music. "I beg your pardon, I didn't praise his music," replied Pennybunker. "You said he deserved an audience comprised entirely of musicians like Beethoven."

The Design. Mrs. Quickenal's husband had given her a fine dress of a new material and new-design and she had it on at a swell reception. "That's a magnificent dress your wife wears," remarked a friend. "Well yes, I thought so, he responded proudly.

"New design, too." "Yes, the latest." "What is the figure on it?" continued the friend putting on his eyeglasses for better examination. "Twelve hundred dollars," replied the pleased husband and the conversation stopped.—Merchant Traveler.

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Over the marble mantelpiece is a large plate-glass mirror, occupying the entire space between the two windows, and the top of which touches the ceiling. This handsome piece of decorative furniture is flanked on either side by bronze figures of sworded cavaliers, and the whole is in striking contrast to a simple gilt mirror, about four feet long by two wide, which is the only piece of antique furniture in the room.

There is a history connected with this mirror, however, and, although it cost only a trifle over \$40 when it was purchased, in the early days of the republic, it was characterized in the senate chamber as a "piece of shameless extravagance." President John Adams was the offender, and he brought the mirror home from Paris, and eventually had it put up for his convenience in the room used by him. At present this mirror is in the compartment containing a stationary washstand, and its time-worn surface is not very flattering to those who avail themselves of it for making an attractive toilet.

Of all the handsomely decorated and frescoed rooms in the senate wing of the capitol that assigned to the vice president is the least conspicuous in this respect. The walls are calcined white, and the only relief to the monotony is a single line of green, not more than half an inch wide. Visitors to this room are attracted by a large bust portrait of George Washington, said to be the best picture extant of the Father of His Country. It was painted by Rembrandt Peale, for whom Washington sat, and the artist did the subject ample justice, if the benign countenance which looks down from the canvas is any indication of the character of the sage of Mount Vernon. It is amid such surroundings that the presiding officer of the senate attends to his affairs, and the books of reference which he finds so much use for are handily arranged in a tall mahogany bookcase, the contents being protected from dust and exposure by cardinal plaited silk curtains and glass doors.

Near the door which leads into the wash-room is placed a pillar of white marble surmounted by a bust of the late Lafayette F. S. Foster, formerly a senator from Connecticut and president pro tempore of the senate. Strangers who are taken into this room by the capitol guides are charmed with interesting but not absolutely historical stories about its former occupants, and the bust of Foster has done duty as the marble presentment of every vice president since the independence of the United States was declared.—Washington Post.

Life in a Snowflake.

Some imaginative and wonderfully learned German scholars tell us that every snowflake is inhabited by happy little beings, who begin their existence, hold their revels, live long lives of happiness and delight, die and are buried, all during the descent of the snowflake from the world of clouds to the solid land. These scholars also tell us that every square foot of air possesses from twelve to fifteen millions of more or less perfect little beings, and that at every ordinary breath we destroy a million, more or less, of these happy lives. The sigh of a healthy lover is supposed to swallow up about fourteen million. They insist that the dust, which will, as all know, accumulate in the most secure and secret places is merely the remains of millions and billions of these little beings who have died of old age. All this, of course, is mere guess work. But I do know that the snow in some parts of the world is thickly inhabited. I have seen new snow in Idaho black with little insects. People there call them snow fleas. They are as lively as possible, and will darken your footprints, walk as fast as you may. They are found only in the high mountains and only in very fresh and very deep snow. They, of course, do not annoy you in any way. They are infinitely smaller than the ordinary flea, but they are not a whit less lively in their locomotion.—St. Nicholas.